

NSC BRIEFING

6 February 1957

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DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDAN

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- I. As result of nationalist Prime Minister Nabulsi's refusal to heed King Hussain's recent demand for government actions to curb anti-Western influence, a political crisis may be in the making in Jordan.

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- IV. King Hussain's action opens a new stage in his conflict with Jordan's leftist and ultranationalist elements. Its outcome could result in his loss of the throne, although ultranationalists may not wish at this time to go so far.
- A. Hussain had previously indicated his desire to replace the popularly elected Nabulsi government at the earliest opportunity with more conservative and responsible leadership.
 - B. However, the announcement, last month, of the Arab "solidarity agreement" to supply aid in sufficient amounts to permit Jordan's termination of its UK treaty ties, has further strengthened Nabulsi against the king.
 - C. By challenging the government and then backing away from a showdown, Hussain has put Jordan's potent anti-Western forces on the alert. They may now rally against the throne.
 - D. One sign that Hussain may have already capitulated to the nationalists is a 5 Feb statement attributed to the king in effect rejecting the recent US Middle East declaration.
 - 1. Hussain had previously expressed approval of the US policy.

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Y. Coincidence of this political crisis in Jordan concurrently with the start of discussions for terminating the UK treaty, again raises the possibility of attempts by Jordan's neighbors to occupy and partition the country if internal order should break down.

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